IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	:	10/564,822
Applicant	:	MELLER et al.
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Based upon the clean version of the amended specification submitted on January 18, 2006, please amend as follows:

Amendment to the Specification begins on page **2** of this paper.

Amendment to the Claims begins on page **3** of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page **5** of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0006] and [0011] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0006] Polymeric insulation foams may be produced in numerous ways, of which foam extrusion is one of the most widely used, and known, technologies. Foaming in an extrusion may be the result of either a physical or a chemical blowing process. In the physical blowing ~~bowing~~ process, a volatile gas is mixed with a polymer, and the mixture expands rapidly as it exits the extruder to the ambient pressure. In the chemical blowing process, the volatile gas is formed by chemical reaction, which may be a result of degradation of an additive, or directly caused by the polymerisation reaction.

[0011] This object is obtained with the polymeric foam tube of the generic kind in that the additional layer is a layer of fibers which comprise ~~comprises~~ or consist of a material having a melt temperature that is higher than that of the polymeric foam, which are adhesively bonded to the internal surface such as to stand up from the internal surface, which are substantially uniformly distributed over the internal surface providing a surface coverage of 2 to 20 percent, preferably 4 to 10 percent, and which have a linear density of 0,5 to 25 dtex and a length of 0,2 to 5 mm.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A polymeric foam tube for pipe insulations, wherein the tube has an external surface and an internal surface the latter being provided with an adhesively bonded additional layer characterized in that the additional layer is a layer of fibers which

- comprises a material having a melt temperature that is higher than that of the polymeric foam,
- are adhesively bonded to the internal surface such as to stand up from the internal surface,
- are substantially uniformly distributed over the internal surface providing a surface coverage of 2 to 20 percent, and
- have a linear density of 0,5 to 25 dtex and a length of 0,2 to 5 mm.

2. (Original) A polymeric foam tube according to claim 1, characterized in that the fibers extend substantially in a radial direction from the internal surface.

3. (Previously presented) A polymeric foam tube according to claim 1, characterized in that the fibers are polymeric fibers.

4. (Previously presented) A method for continuously producing a polymeric foam tube for pipe insulations, wherein

- the polymeric foam tube is extruded, providing an external and an internal surface,
- the extruded tube is axially slit from its external surface to its internal surface,
- the slit tube is spread to the shape of a plate,
- an adhesive layer is applied to the exposed internal surface of the tube spread

to the shape of a plate,

- an additional layer is applied to the adhesive layer and bonded thereto,
- the spread tube is returned into its tube shape before being slit with closing the axial slit of the tube coated with the adhesive layer and the additional layer

characterized in that the additional layer is made

- of a material comprising fibers having a linear density of 0,5 to 25 dtex, a length of 0,2 to 5 mm and a melt temperature that is higher than that of the polymeric foam,
- by setting the internal surface of the spread tube coated with the adhesive layer to a ground potential, and
- by electrostatically charging the fibers such that their one ends stick to the adhesive layer with a uniform surface coverage of 2 to 20 percent, while their other ends stand up therefrom.

5. (Previously presented) The tube of claim 1 wherein said surface coverage is 4 to 10 percent.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said surface coverage is 4 to 10 percent.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to point out that the above application was published using the original specification. Applicants submitted an amended and clean specification when the application was filed on January 18, 2006. Therefore, the above amendments to the specification are based upon the clean copy, and have been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

The amendments do not add to or depart from the original disclosure, or constitute prohibited new matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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